

work to create economic opportunity for all. And we must face the realities of inequity and injustice and systemic racism, and the work that has yet to be done to build a stronger America.

There are no easy answers to these challenges. Simply put, there is no silver bullet or hashtag that will solve these deep-seated issues, but there is a right way to work towards a solution: by working together.

Mr. Speaker, at this moment of fear and division, we have a choice: to retreat into our corners and find ourselves pitted against each other, to fall further into this well of darkness, or to come together and find a pathway back to civility, to remember that our neighbors' fears and struggles and challenges are not that different from our own.

Mr. Speaker, this is a choice each of us must make, and we must urge our Nation's leaders to make the choice correctly. We need leaders who will solve problems rather than create them, who will remind us of what we can accomplish together when we try. At this moment in time, we need leaders who will renew our commitment to unity and public service because there is so much at stake.

Mr. Speaker, we have more in common than we have that is different. We have more that unites us than divides us. And to make this great experiment that is our Nation work, we must recognize a fundamental truth:

We are a government of the people, and that means we have to work for everyone. We are a government by the people—not by a party, not by two separate peoples, by the people.

Mr. Speaker, to move ourselves forward for the people, to keep our democracy strong, we must recognize the humanity in each other. Our Nation's future hangs in the balance.

COMMEMORATING THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, as this year draws to a close, I rise to commemorate the historic Abraham Accords.

After years of foreign policy experts saying it could not be done, President Trump and his team have now brokered peace between Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco, the fourth such agreement in just 4 months.

Because of these remarkable diplomatic accomplishments, we will seek continued cultural, diplomatic, and economic visits and exchanges between Israel and Bahrain, Israel and the Emirates, Israel and Sudan, and, now, Israel and Morocco.

I believe that this represents a historic paradigm shift in the region and gives momentum to ultimate peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 20 years since Israel signed peace with

the Kingdom of Jordan and more than 40 years since the historic Camp David Accords and peace between Egypt and Israel.

Since those historic agreements, the United States' efforts to further peace in the Middle East have stumbled and faltered, with little to no significant progress shown. In fact, the situation for Israelis has been more dangerous in recent years, with terrorist attacks and rocket bombardments becoming a near regular occurrence.

Expanding diplomatic relations between Israel and these other nations will be beneficial to pushing back against the Iranian mullahs, Hezbollah, and other extremists in the region.

I look forward to the United States working together with Israel and these new partners at the table to solve the crisis in Syria and to counter the mullahs in Iran.

Mr. Speaker, many of us in Congress encourage the incoming Biden administration to build on these historic positive developments and not fall back into the failed Middle East policies of the past.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS ALBERT PARRIS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, Thomas Albert Parris. He was 87 years old.

After joining the Air Force in 1948, at age 14, Mr. Parris was stationed in Germany for 2 years, where he drove an ambulance and became a medic. Mr. Parris continued to serve in that capacity at various Air Force bases in the U.S. and abroad.

While stationed in the Azores, Mr. Parris assisted in delivering 395 babies. After retiring from military service, Mr. Parris owned several gas stations, worked on nuclear submarines, became a private pilot, and trained racehorses.

Most recently, he was recognized by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and awarded the Cherokee Warrior Medal of Patriotism by Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr., and the Tribal council members.

I join Arkansans, Oklahomans, and all Americans in recognizing Mr. Parris' years of service and honoring his remarkable life. I pray he rests in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NICOLE INMAN

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Nicole Inman and her great memory, who, over the past many months, was recognized by her friends, family, and colleagues as a warrior of hope. Nicole recently lost her courageous battle with cancer. Many across Arkansas are mourning her passing.

Nicole was the Bryant High School girls' soccer coach, who led the program to its second Class 6A state championship in May 2019, the same year she was awarded Coach of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches. She was more than a coach and a teacher; she was an inspiration on and off the field.

Nicole's faith was a cornerstone throughout her fight. With her strong faith in God, she used her illness as an opportunity to minister and inspire her players and students.

Nicole was also an incredible wife and mother. Her legacy will live on through her team and her husband, Scott, and their four children: Garrett, Ashton, Abbey, and Nathan.

She will be missed by her community. I offer prayers for comfort to her family and condolences. Thank you for sharing her with our community.

CELEBRATING ATLANTA-BASED BUSINESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate several businesses and issues essential to Georgia's Fifth Congressional District and to greater metro Atlanta.

As many in this Chamber likely know, my district is home to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. As many also know, the coronavirus pandemic has ravaged air travel, an industry critical to my district.

Which is why this morning I am proud to celebrate Delta Airlines and Hartsfield-Jackson for the inaugural quarantine-free, COVID-free flight from Atlanta to Rome, Italy.

As former chair of the international committee in the Atlanta City Council, I challenge the House Foreign Affairs Committee to facilitate measures that encourage more of this.

My responsibilities attendant to the Fifth Congressional District prevented me from joining this group on this delegation, but I hope to be on later flights.

I also rise to raise attention to the need for renewed support of the former OPIC-like activities via the DFC, the Development Finance Corporation. Attention to developing nations in Africa, like Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia; the Caribbean; South and Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Colombia; Central Asia and Asia are in need of support.

This morning, I also want to celebrate Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement store, with more than 2,200 stores, employing 400,000 individuals. Under the vision of Arthur Blank, the Home Depot supports countless lives and families and continues their unwavering support of veterans.

We know that the COVID pandemic has affected many industries, including home improvement. Many employees in industries all across the country have been deeply affected by the economic toll caused by the pandemic, which is why the stimulus discussions occurring in the Capitol, if reports are to be believed, are still somewhat insufficient. We simply cannot be content with \$600 payments. \$600 per person is not enough. Frankly, my flights

here are about \$300. So I am sure we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter the holiday season, I also want to spotlight other Atlanta organizations for their support of those in need. I want to celebrate Tyler Perry Studios for telling uplifting and inspiring stories and using their state-of-the-art facilities to support 5,000 families with food this past Thanksgiving.

I also want to acknowledge two non-profit organizations—Caring for Others and Hosea Feed the Hungry—that are both helping to fill the gaps during this pandemic.

We, in Congress, also need to do our part. As I stated earlier, we can do better than the \$600 being discussed in this stimulus proposal. It is a good start, but it is not enough.

There are other Atlanta-based companies that are doing notable work that merit recognition: UPS, which has been critical in the disbursement of the COVID vaccine; and other companies, like Global Payments and Equifax.

Later this week, I also plan to introduce legislation to advocate for the continuation of the John Lewis Loop and Campbellton Road. Also in need of inclusion is Old National Highway, Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Candler Road, Camp Creek, and Martin Luther King Drive. They all need relief now. They are critical to job creation in our community and need investment.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS THE PARTY FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, Speaker PELOSI and Congressman CLYBURN announced the unveiling of a new exhibit in the Capitol that pays tribute to Joseph Rainey, the first Black Member of the House of Representatives.

He served from 1869 until 1879. He was the first African American to preside over the House, and he was the longest-serving Black lawmaker in Congress during Reconstruction. In fact, he was a founding member of the South Carolina Republican Party.

Two other Republicans, George White and Jefferson Long, made history as the first Black Members of Congress from North Carolina and Georgia during the same period. George White, from North Carolina, was a staunch advocate for other Black Republicans in the State and often took Democrats to task for not accepting the values that other Black Republicans held as well.

Their stories deserve due recognition, and they also serve as reminders that political affiliations of any type are based on the values that one espouses, not just the color of one's skin or sex.

It is unfortunate that more Black Republicans are not elected to the House of Representatives or to the Senate. That is because Black Republicans

have been attacked repeatedly by the Democratic Party and their friends in the mainstream media.

Mr. Speaker, even now, Democrats are still peddling a facade of being the party of the people. However, their outright rejection of those who hold different beliefs just goes to show how contradictory the party truly is.

Meanwhile, the Republican Party welcomes members from all different backgrounds. Just look at the diverse new Republican representatives that the American people elected to Congress: women, veterans, and minorities. Those are the Republican candidates from across the country who have proven that Republican values are not the values of a few; they are the values of many.

If we look at the centennial of the 19th Amendment that happened this year, we see the same disinformation tactics at play. Democrats harp incessantly about how they were the ones that fought for the 19th Amendment, but history tells a different story. On May 21, 1919, 200 Republicans voted for the 19th Amendment in the House, while many Democrats objected.

Mr. Speaker, facts can't be forsaken as we look back at these historic events. However, flip through the pages of any classroom textbook and you do not see the Republican Party getting the credit it deserves for fighting for equality, women, and minority populations.

Americans are not consigned to one set of political ideologies based on immutable characteristics. Free societies are built by an open exchange of ideas, and that exchange must be respected.

The American people do not need to be told how to feel, how to think, and what values they should support. That is irresponsible. The American people are perfectly capable of coming to their own conclusions, but they need the facts presented to them.

The Republican Party is the party of equality, and the facts clearly show that.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, over the last 10 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our communities: from our frontline heroes working around the clock to families who have gone hungry, to the millions who have lost their jobs, and, heartbreakingly, the over 300,000 who have lost their lives.

While many of us believe that the Federal Government can and still should do much more to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, we all can be inspired by the compassion, innovation, and resilience of the people in our communities who have stepped up to serve and to try to fill the needs laid bare by this crisis. They are our local heroes.

A few weeks ago, my office launched a local heroes initiative to showcase the countless people in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who have gone above and beyond to help those in need throughout this crisis. In just the first few days, we received over 100 submissions, and it has grown since then.

From nurses on our front lines to children organizing food drives, we were overwhelmed by the stories of resilience, ingenuity, and absolute determination by members of our community whose stories we don't hear enough. So, today, I want to share a few of their stories.

I am talking about people like Nicole, an emergency manager, who is now serving our community by running two emergency rooms due to the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases. Aunt Nee Nee, as she is known to her beloved nieces and nephews, has only been able to see her family for limited amounts of time, if at all, since the pandemic started.

People like Jillian, a mom of three, who regularly works 15-hour shifts in the ER, then comes home, disposes of her scrubs in a bin so she can hug her kids and help them do their schoolwork. She is a real-life superhero.

Young people like Emily, just 14 years old, who, when she realized that some children in our community would be without holiday gifts this year, organized a toy drive, contributing her babysitting money and recruiting her younger brother and sisters to help make cards and wrap the gifts.

People like Michelle, a nonprofit leader, who has ensured that our LGBTQ communities are not left behind during this crisis; working to secure housing, food, and medications for immunocompromised community members.

Teachers like Jimmy, from Upper Darby, who knows how hard this transition has been for both students and teachers. So he has gone above and beyond to share acts of kindness, like dropping off doughnuts for his fellow teachers or helping students get help to obtain the technology they need for virtual learning.

People like Ala Stanford and the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium, who organized free COVID testing for our most at-risk communities when it became apparent that they could not otherwise obtain testing.

County employees, like Ed and Gayle, who have reinvented and organized dozens of drive-thru food drives to help feed our neighbors and keep the donors safe.

These local heroes should inspire all of us, no matter what our party, to fight for more relief that the American people deserve.

Every day we delay getting relief to them means more businesses go under, people get sicker, more Americans die, and families are stretched even thinner financially. We have got to get this done. The American people cannot wait.